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04-106

Date: May 18, 2004

**HIGHWAY 2 JUST WEST OF WRIGHTWOOD NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**WRIGHTWOOD** – At 1:30 p.m. today, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announced the opening of State Route 2 from Islip Saddle to Vincent Gulch. This opening was nearly two weeks ahead of the opening targeted for the Memorial Day Weekend, and is just in time for travelers to enjoy the beauty the highway affords. Each day, an average of 300 motorists travel this stretch of highway.

The highway is closed every winter because of weather-related debris that damages the roadway. It is not unusual to see snowslides as high as 25 feet or large boulders dislodged by rain and snow. Every year, Caltrans Maintenance crews clear drainage systems, repair crash cushions and guardrails, remove debris from the travelway and refresh highway striping. A year ago, damage was much more extensive.

Now that this closure has been lifted, motorists will be able to travel the full length of this scenic, winding highway that extends nearly 83 miles through Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. Caltrans thanks motorists for their patience through the winter season and urges everyone to drive safely during this holiday season.

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